

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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5 A method and apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using public communications networks, wherein an data transfer is processed via a switching office via a personal computer, and the payment for the goods received or services provided is carried out, in a way similar to the production of a telephone bill, via a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office, without it being necessary to transmit security-related data over the Internet.

In the claims:

On page 9, cancel line 1, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

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A2 CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

Sub B2 15
9. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using the Internet, wherein goods and services may be ordered via at least one personal computer via an access node, and the goods and services are invoiced and paid for electronically, the method comprising the steps of:
processing, via the personal computer, an order data transfer via a switching office;
20 interrupting, at least briefly, access to the Internet starting from the switching office after confirmation of the order; and
establishing a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telephone network operator in order to register, with respect to billing, the order within a respective terminal-related telephone account file via customary processing
25 of the services for use of the telephone network.

A3
10. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of:
running a PIN-inputting and PIN-checking mode before the order data and
30 billing data are registered in the telephone account file.